

REMARKS

Claims 9, 10 and 12 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwarz et al. (US 5,823,303) in view of Pollinger (US 4,280,598) or Austin (US 6,158,124). Claims 12 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gebhardt et al. (US 3,994,370) in view of Pollinger and Schwarz et al.

Claim 9 has been amended. Claims 10 to 12 and 14 to 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 11, which was indicated as allowable. Claim 9 has also been amended to replace “disposing the at least two pair in a casting mold” with “disposing the at least two pair in a casting core,” for clarity.

Reconsideration of the application based on the above is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 9, 10 and 12 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwarz et al. (US 5,823,303) in view of Pollinger (US 4,280,598) or Austin (US 6,158,124).

Claim 9 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 11, which was indicated as allowable.

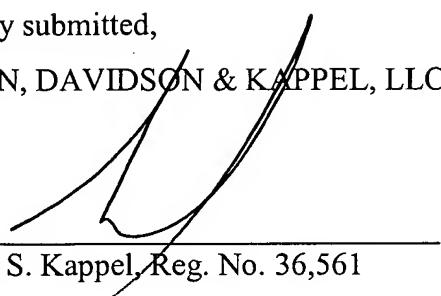
Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 9, and claim 13 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,
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